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TO: *Examiner Hoai-An D. Nguyen*

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Date: *April 15, 2003*

Pages to follow (including cover sheet): <sup>*2854*</sup> *3*

MESSAGE:

*U.S. appen. No. 09/918,760 (our D/A1143)*

*- Response*

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Attorney Docket N . D/A1143

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventors: Steven R. Moore, et al

Application No.: 09/918,760

Group: 2854

Filed: 08/01/2001

Examiner: Hoai-An D. Nguyen

Title: BACKLASH REDUCTION

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

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April 15, 2003  
(Date of transmission)

Gail M. McMillan

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(Signature)

Sir:

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION  
MAILED ON 15 JANUARY 2003

Please enter this response to the Office Action mailed 15 January 2003 into the file of the U.S. Patent Application identified above. The Applicants request reconsideration and allowance of the claims.

REMARKS

The Examiner has rejected to all claims under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. Applicants traverse all rejections.

In particular, the Examiner rejected claims 1 through 12 and 14 through 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Narita. Applicant respectfully submits that Narita has little to do with the claimed invention. Narita discloses a plurality of gear trains selectively actuated by an electromagnetic clutch assembly. There is no disclosure of advancing paper short of a particular point and then finally advancing, as by incrementally moving the paper in much smaller steps, to the destination as claimed, for example, in applicant's independent claims 1, 9, 16, and 24. Further,